

Appl. No.: 10/069,140
Filed: February 22, 2002
Page 6

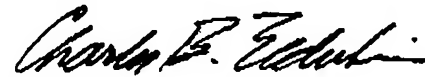
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the latest Official Action, Claims 25-42 were allowed and Claim 44 was rejected under §103 of the patent statute.

Claim 44 has now been canceled, leaving only allowed Claims 25-42.

There being no other issues, it is submitted that the application is in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

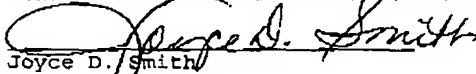


Charles B. Elderkin
Registration No. 24,357

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
#4626989v1

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.



Joyce D. Smith

Date: January 9, 2004